

## GOP targets ballot drop boxes in Georgia, Florida, elsewhere

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Atlanta-area voters looking to return their ballots using a drop box in next year's gubernatorial election will have to do some searching.

Just eight boxes will be spread across Fulton County's nearly 529 square miles — or about one for every 100,000 registered voters. That's down from the 38 drop boxes that were available to voters last fall. It's the result of a broad new law pushed by Georgia Republicans in response to former President Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen election.

Georgia is one of several states controlled politically by Republicans that are seeking additional restrictions on voting, citing security concerns. A favorite target is ballot drop boxes,

which have been used for years in states with expansive mail voting and which millions of voters used last year as a way to avoid polling places during the pandemic.

Democrats say the boxes are more secure than regular mailboxes, and their use was largely trouble-free last fall. Even Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, a Republican who signed the restrictive bill into law, posted a video on his Twitter account that showed him using a drop box to cast his ballot last year, flashing a thumbs up sign afterward.

"They loved ballot drop boxes until Trump and the Republicans started losing," said state Rep. Erica Thomas, a Democrat from metro Atlanta.

Continued on next page



In this Monday, Oct. 26, 2020, file photo, an election worker stamps a vote-by-mail ballot dropped off by a voter before placing it in an official ballot drop box before at the Miami-Dade County Board of Elections in Doral, Fla.

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#### Continued from Front

For election officials and voters across the country, drop boxes seemed like an ideal solution to two major problems in 2020: a coronavirus pandemic that raised fears about crowded polling places and reports of mail delays that threatened on-time delivery of ballots.

The boxes were targeted a few times by vandals, but few other problems were reported across the country. Even so, Republicans say they want to ensure the boxes will be a secure way to cast a ballot.

"It's a continued narrative where you try to pit security against accessibility, and you have to choose one or the other," said Hillary Hall, a former county elections clerk in Colorado who now works with election officials across the country through the National Vote at Home Institute. "It's a false choice."

Drop boxes have been used for years in states such as Colorado, Oregon and Washington, where ballots are mailed to all registered voters ahead of every election.

Placement can vary widely. In some places, they're located inside public buildings, available only during office hours. Elsewhere, they are outside and accessible at any hour, typically with video surveillance or someone monitoring in-person.

"I'm just so glad we had that option," said Cynthia Vaughn, a retired financial manager from Atlanta who used a drop box at her local library in November and again for the state's January Senate runoff.

She said slashing access to them will be especially hard on those who don't have ready access to a vehicle or public transit: "Driving extra miles to get somewhere to drop off a ballot doesn't adhere to the whole point



In this Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 file photo, a voter submits a ballot in an official drop box during early voting in Athens, Ga.

that it should be easy and accommodating for everyone to vote."

They were so popular in Florida last year that nearly 1.5 million voters used them, according to Florida Supervisors of Elections, a statewide group of local election officials. Even so, a bill pending in the Florida Senate would limit their use to hours when in-person early voting is offered. An earlier version would have eliminated them entirely, but that was revised after election supervisors opposed it.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Sen. Dennis Baxley, acknowledged during a legislative hearing that he was not aware of any problems with drop boxes in Florida last year. Nevertheless, he said they introduced security gaps into the state's mail voting process that must be closed.

"I don't think we should sit on our laurels or congratu-

late ourselves on a successful election," Baxley said. "Our time is better spent learning lessons from problems in other states to make sure we are prepared for 2022 and beyond."

No state reported any significant problems with drop boxes last year.

Democrats complained the bill would preclude voters from dropping off ballots in the days just before an election, when early voting is no longer available and voters are worried about relying on the U.S. Postal Service to deliver their ballots on time.

Republican lawmakers in other states, including Michigan and Wisconsin, also have proposed new limits, though the chances of many of them becoming law are slim because Democrats control the governor's offices.

As part of a broad GOP-led election overhaul in Iowa this year, lawmakers ap-

proved legislation to limit drop boxes in future elections to just one per county. Previously, state law did not say how many drop boxes counties could operate. Lawmakers in Texas, where the GOP is in full control, also are debating how voters can return ballots.

Election experts say outdoor drop boxes are arguably more secure than a regular U.S. Postal Service mailbox sitting on a sidewalk, especially when video surveillance is used. They are typically large, heavy and anchored to the ground.

Democrats in Congress, as part of their proposal to establish national election standards, want to require states to offer drop boxes. Their goal is one for every 20,000 registered voters in most counties by the 2022 midterm elections. For counties with fewer than 20,000 registered voters, a minimum of one drop box

would be required.

In Georgia, drop boxes were permitted last year under an emergency rule prompted by the coronavirus pandemic. State Republicans have defended the new law as making drop boxes a permanent option for voters and requiring all counties to have at least one. But critics say the new limits mean there will be fewer drop boxes available in the state's most populous communities.

"There weren't any issues with the drop boxes, and that's the point," said Georgia Sen. Jen Jordan, a Democrat whose district includes parts of Fulton County.

"It's definitely going to impact voters and their ability to access the ballot and cast their vote."

In fast-growing Cobb County north of Atlanta, officials had 16 drop boxes available in November but will be permitted about five under the new law. Janine Eveler, the county's elections director, said 60% of all returned absentee ballots last fall came through a drop box.

For the entire metro Atlanta area, Democrats estimate the number of drop boxes will fall from 94 last year to no more than 23 for future elections based on the new formula of one drop box per 100,000 registered voters.

Republican Sen. Brian Strickland, whose district sits south of Atlanta, said lawmakers were focused on making sure drop boxes were written into the law, available for future elections with strong security measures in place.

"If the provision we have is not workable — this is the first time we have tried this — I'm sure you will see us go back and amend that to allow additional drop boxes if more are needed," he said. □

Associated Press

## 2 U.S. agencies send teams to probe Tesla crash with no driver

**DETROIT (AP)** — Two federal agencies are sending teams to investigate the fatal crash of a Tesla near Houston in which local authorities say no one was behind the wheel.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday they will send investigators to Spring, Texas, to look into the fiery Saturday night crash. Two men who were in the Tesla were killed.

Investigators are "100% sure" that no one was driving the Tesla that missed a curve on a residential road, hit a tree and burst into flames, Harris County Precinct Four Constable Mark Herman said.

But they're still trying to determine whether the electric car was operating on Tesla's Autopilot driver-assist system, or if the company's "Full Self-Driving Capability" system was in use.

One of the men was found in the front passenger seat of the badly burned car, and the other was in the back seat, Herman told The Associated Press Monday.

"We are actively engaged with local law enforcement and Tesla to learn more about the details of the crash and will take appropriate steps when we have more information," NHTSA said Monday.

The NTSB is sending two investigators who will focus on the vehicle's operation and the fire, spokesman Keith Holloway said.

Investigators are in the process of getting several search warrants seeking evidence in the crash, but Herman would not say if those warrants are directed at Tesla. He said he didn't know if investigators had spoken with the Palo Alto, California, electric vehicle maker. Also, investigators are working with NHTSA and the NTSB, both of which investigate serious auto crashes.

Tesla has had serious problems with its Autopilot partially automated driving system, which has been involved in several fatal crashes where it didn't spot tractor trailers crossing in front of it, stopped emergency vehicles, or a highway barrier. The NTSB has



This Feb. 9, 2019, file photo shows a sign bearing the company logo outside a Tesla store in Cherry Creek Mall in Denver.

Associated Press

recommended that NHTSA and Tesla limit the roads on which the system can safely operate, and that Tesla install a more robust system to monitor drivers to make sure they're paying attention. Neither Tesla nor the agency took action.

A message was left Monday morning seeking comment from Tesla, which has done away with its media relations department. The company has said in the past that drivers using Autopilot must be ready to intervene at any time. It says the "Full Self-Driving Capability" system can't drive itself and

also must be continually monitored by drivers.

Investigators haven't determined how fast the Tesla was driving at the time of the crash, but Herman said it was a high speed. He would not say if there was evidence that anyone tampered with Tesla's system to monitor the driver, which detects force from hands on the wheel. The system will issue warnings and eventually shut the car down if it doesn't detect hands. But critics say Tesla's system is easy to fool.

KHOU-TV reported that the car was a 2019 Tesla Model

S, and the two men found in the car were aged 59 and 69. Herman said the car went about 100 feet after running off the road, hit a tree and immediately caught fire.

Firefighters, he said, used at least 32,000 gallons of water to extinguish the flames fed by the car's lithium-ion battery, he said. Firefighters at the scene contacted Tesla for advice on how to extinguish the blaze and were told just to let it burn out, Herman said.

The Harris County crash is the 28th to which NHTSA has sent investigators during the past few years.

On Sunday, Tesla CEO Elon Musk tweeted that the company had released a safety report from the first quarter showing that Tesla with Autopilot has nearly a 10 times lower chance of crashing than the average vehicle with a human piloting it.

But Kelly Funkhouser, head of connected and automated vehicle testing for Consumer Reports, said Tesla's numbers have been inaccurate in the past and are difficult to verify. □

## Garland returns to Oklahoma City for bombing memorial

By **SEAN MURPHY**  
Associated Press

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Although 26 years have passed since a truck bomb ripped through a federal building in downtown Oklahoma City, killing 168 people, the same domestic extremism that led to the attack still exists today, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said Monday. Garland, who led the investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 as a Department of Justice staffer, delivered remarks during a remembrance ceremony at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, his voice occasionally cracking with emotion.

"Although many years have passed, the terror perpetrated by people like Timothy McVeigh is still with us," Garland said, refer-

ring to the man ultimately convicted and executed for carrying out the attack. "Just last month, the FBI warned of the ongoing and heightened threat posed by domestic violent extremists."

"The Department of Justice is pouring its resources into stopping domestic violent extremists before they can attack, prosecuting those who do, and battling the spread of the kind of hate that leads to tragedies like the one we mark here today."

Hatred of the federal government motivated McVeigh and his co-conspirator, Terry Nichols, to commit what many experts still refer to as the deadliest act of domestic terrorism on U.S. soil. McVeigh was executed by lethal injection in 2001. Nichols was sentenced to

life in prison.

The outdoor ceremony, attended by first responders, bombing survivors and family members of victims, was held between the gates of the memorial that mark the times, 9:01 and 9:03 a.m., before and after the explosion occurred. Behind the speakers were empty glass and metal chairs representing each person who died, including smaller chairs for the 19 children killed in the bombing, many of them inside the second-floor America's Kids day-care center.

A quiet that fell over the memorial grounds during 168 seconds of silence to remember the victims was interrupted at 9 a.m. by church bells from a nearby cathedral.

Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt also warned of the dangers of

division within the country. "Never in our lifetime has it been easier for us to be divided," Stitt said. "There are groups that refuse to listen to another point of view. They try to cancel anyone who sees the world differently."

"It feels like everywhere we turn, someone or something is trying to drive a wedge between us."

Blayne Arthur, whose mother Margaret "Peggy" Clark died in the bombing, said she believes the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum plays an important role in teaching a new generation about the dangers of hate.

"That's one of the most important purposes of the museum and the memorial is to tell that story to all generations and say there's a different way



United States Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks during the 26th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum in Oklahoma City, Okla. on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Associated Press

and hate is not the answer," said Arthur, who is now Oklahoma's secretary of agriculture, "and I think now it's really important to do that." □

# Leaders of Proud Boys ordered jailed on Capitol riot charges

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**

A federal judge on Monday ordered two leaders of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group to be arrested and jailed while awaiting trial on charges they planned and coordinated an attack on the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

Joseph Biggs and Ethan Nordean had been free since their March 10 indictment, but U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly concluded that the two men are dangerous and no conditions for their release could be adequate. The judge said Biggs and Nordean "facilitated political violence" even if they weren't armed and didn't assault anybody at the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Kelly overruled another federal judge in Washington, D.C., who had ordered pre-trial home confinement for Nordean. Biggs was freed after his initial Jan. 20 arrest in his home state of Florida. Justice Department prosecutors initially didn't seek to keep Biggs jailed but last month asked for his pretrial release to be revoked, saying new evidence shows he poses a "grave danger" to the community.

Attorneys for Biggs and Nordean asked Kelly to suspend Monday's ruling pending a possible appeal, but the judge denied their



In this Jan. 6, 2021, file photo, Proud Boys members Joseph Biggs, left, and Ethan Nordean, right with megaphone, walk toward the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

request. Biggs and Nordean are among more than two dozen Capitol riot defendants who have been described by federal authorities as Proud Boys leaders, members or associates.

Last month's indictment charged Biggs, Nordean and two other men described as Proud Boys leaders with conspiring to impede Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote. Other charges in the indictment include obstruction of an official proceeding, obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder and disorderly

conduct.

Zachary Rehl and Charles Donohoe are charged in the same indictment as Biggs and Nordean and have been jailed since their arrests in March.

Police arrested the Proud Boys' top leader, Enrique Tarrio, in Washington two days before the riot and charged him with vandalizing a Black Lives Matter banner at a historic Black church during a protest in December. Tarrio, who was ordered to stay out of the District of Columbia, hasn't been charged in connection with the Capitol siege.

Nordean, 30, of Auburn, Washington, has been a Proud Boys chapter president and member of the group's national "Elders Council." Biggs, 37, of Ormond Beach, Florida, is a self-described Proud Boys organizer. Rehl, 35, of Philadelphia, and Donohoe, 33, of Kernersville, North Carolina, serve as presidents of their local Proud Boys chapters, according to the indictment.

Proud Boys members describe themselves as a politically incorrect men's club for "Western chauvinists." Its members frequently have

engaged in street fights with antifascist activists at rallies and protests.

On the morning of the riot, Biggs and Nordean met other Proud Boys members at the Washington Monument and led them on a march to the Capitol before then-President Donald Trump finished addressing thousands of supporters near the White House, the indictment says.

Around two hours later, just before Congress convened a joint session to certify the election results, Proud Boys members followed a crowd of people who breached barriers at a pedestrian entrance to the Capitol grounds, the indictment says. Several Proud Boys also entered the Capitol building itself after the mob smashed windows and forced open doors.

During a March 3 hearing, U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell accused prosecutors of backtracking on their claims that Nordean had instructed Proud Boys members to split up into smaller groups and directed a "strategic plan" to breach the Capitol. However, Howell concluded that Nordean was extensively involved in "pre-planning" for the events of Jan. 6 and that he and other Proud Boys "were clearly prepared for a violent confrontation" that day. □

## Historian says Census didn't consult states on privacy tool

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

The U.S. Census Bureau didn't consult with the 50 states when making its decision to introduce a controversial statistical method used to protect the privacy of participants in the 2020 census, a significant departure from 40 years of practices, according to a leading census historian.

Historian Margo Anderson said Friday in a court filing that the Census Bureau should reach out to the states as it works towards putting the finishing touches on the privacy method known as "differential privacy." The method, for the first time, will be applied to the data used for redrawing congressional and legislative districts later

this year.

Anderson's court filing was made in a lawsuit filed by the state of Alabama, challenging the bureau's use of differential privacy, which Alabama argues will result in inaccurate redistricting data. The Census Bureau plans to release redistricting data in August at the earliest.

At least 16 other states are supporting Alabama's opposition to the use of differential privacy. The Census Bureau has missed an opportunity to involve the states in working out the mechanics of the statistical technique, said Anderson, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"There has not been a formal opportunity for the states to evalu-

ate, challenge, or recommend improvement ... or assess their impact on the redistricting responsibilities within the states," Anderson said.

Differential privacy adds mathematical "noise," or controlled amounts of errors, to the data to obscure any given individual's identity while still providing statistically valid information.

Bureau officials say the change is needed to prevent data miners with powerful computing capabilities and sophisticated software from matching individuals to confidential details that have been rendered anonymous in the massive redistricting data.

It will be applied to race, age and other demographic information

in geographic areas within each state.

After studying other possibilities, the Census Bureau concluded that differential privacy was the best option for maintaining the confidentiality of census participants' information, John Abowd, the Census Bureau's chief scientist, said in a court filing last week. "Our empirical analysis showed that differential privacy offered the most efficient trade-off between privacy and accuracy," Abowd said. "In other words, regardless of the level of desired confidentiality, differential privacy will always produce more accurate data than the alternative traditional methods considered by the Census Bureau." □

# Group urges U.N. to probe China for crimes against humanity

By KEN MORITSUGU

Associated Press

**KASHGAR, China (AP)** — A human rights group appealed to the United Nations on Monday to investigate allegations China's government is committing crimes against humanity in the Xinjiang region.

Human Rights Watch cited reports of the mass detention of Muslims, a crackdown on religious practices and other measures against minorities in the northwestern region. It said they amount to crimes against humanity as defined by the treaty that established the International Criminal Court.

China is not a member of the court and could use its veto power as a permanent U.N. Security Council member to block action against Chinese officials, Human Rights Watch said in a report. However, the New York-based group said the U.N. Human Rights Commission should create a body to investigate the charges, identify those responsible and provide a road map to hold them accountable.

More than 1 million people have been confined to



Uyghurs and other members of the faithful walk under an arch with security cameras as they leave after prayers at the Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar in western China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, as seen during a government organized trip for foreign journalists, Monday, April 19, 2021.

Associated Press

camps in Xinjiang, according to foreign governments and researchers. Authorities there are accused of imposing forced labor and birth controls.

The Chinese government rejects complaints of abuses and says the camps are for job training to support economic development and combat Islamic radicalism. The government is pressing foreign clothing

and shoe brands to reverse decisions to stop using cotton from Xinjiang due to reports of possible forced labor there.

Then-U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared in the final days of the Trump administration that China was committing genocide in Xinjiang. His successor under President Joe Biden, Antony Blinken, has retained that designation.

The parliaments of Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada have accused Beijing of genocide, though Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been reluctant to use the term.

A spokesman for the ruling Communist Party on Monday rejected accusations Beijing has committed genocide or crimes against humanity in Xinjiang.

Such remarks by Pompeo

and others "are totally opposite to the reality in Xinjiang," said Xu Guixiang, deputy director-general of the party's propaganda department for Xinjiang.

"You can see stability and harmony in Xinjiang," Xu said in Kashgar, a historic Silk Road city in southern Xinjiang. "There are no crimes against humanity or genocide, and the populations of ethnic minorities and Uyghurs are on the rise." Human Rights Watch, which said it was assisted in the report by a Stanford University Law School human rights clinic, said it had not documented genocidal intent.

China has denied the United Nations unfettered access to the region to investigate. "Who has done the investigation? Who is in the position to act as the judge? And where is the evidence? There isn't any," Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng told The Associated Press in an interview last week. "They put sanctions on us and then they say they would like to come and do an investigation to collect the evidence. I think this is typical presumption of guilt." □

## E.U. estimates 150,000 Russian troops near Ukraine's borders

By RAF CASERT

Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Union's foreign policy chief has estimated that more than 150,000 Russian troops have already amassed for the biggest military buildup ever near Ukraine's borders and that it will only take "a spark" to set off a confrontation.

Josep Borrell also said Monday that the condition of imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was "critical" and that the 27-nation group would hold the Kremlin accountable for his health and safety. Despite the developments, Borrell said after a virtual meeting of the EU foreign ministers that, "for the time being,

there is no move in the field of more sanctions" to be imposed on Russia. He also said there wasn't a request for a synchronized EU diplomatic move of expulsions in the standoff between Czech Republic, an EU member state, and Russia following Prague's accusation that Moscow was involved in a 2014 ammunition depot explosion. More dangerous at this time, Borrell said, was the massing of Russian troops, including military field hospitals, and "all kinds of warfare." "It is the highest military deployment of the Russian army on the Ukrainian borders ever. It's clear that it's a matter of concern when you deploy a lot of troops," Borrell said.

"Well, a spark can jump here or there."

"There's more than 150,000 Russian troops massing on the Ukrainian borders and in Crimea. The risk of further escalation — it's evident," he told reporters after the meeting. Borrell declined to say where he got the 150,000 Russian troop number from, but called it "my reference figure." It's bigger than the 110,000 estimate provided by Ukrainian Defense Minister Andriy Taran on Wednesday.

More than 14,000 people have died in seven years of fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine that erupted after Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Penin-



European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell speaks as he attends a meeting of EU foreign ministers to discuss the situation in Ukraine, at the European Council building in Brussels, Monday, April 19, 2021.

Associated Press

sula. The EU has steadfastly opposed the annexation but has been unable to do anything about it.

Efforts to reach a political settlement have stalled and violations of a shaky truce have become increasingly frequent in recent weeks across

Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland known as the Donbas.

Diplomats had expected there was little to no chance of immediate new sanctions on Moscow, but they now will seek to apply more pressure nevertheless through diplomacy. □

# Rwanda report blames France for 'enabling' the 1994 genocide

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — The French government bears "significant" responsibility for "enabling a foreseeable genocide," a report commissioned by the Rwandan government concludes about France's role before and during the horror in which an estimated 800,000 people were slaughtered in 1994.

The report, which The Associated Press has read, comes amid efforts by Rwanda to document the role of French authorities before, during, and after the genocide, part of the steps taken by France's President Emmanuel Macron to improve relations with the central African country.

The 600-page report says that France "did nothing to stop" the massacres, in April and May 1994, and in the years after the genocide tried to cover up its role and even offered protection to some perpetrators.

It was made on Monday after its formal presentation to Rwanda's Cabinet.

It concludes that in years leading up to the genocide, former French President Francois Mitterrand and his administration had knowledge of preparations for the massacres yet kept supporting the government of then-Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana despite the "warning signs."

"The French government was neither blind nor unconscious about the foreseeable genocide," the authors stress.

The Rwandan report comes less than a month after a French report, commissioned by Macron, concluded that French authorities had been "blind" to the preparations for genocide and then reacted too slowly to appreciate the extent of the killings and to respond to them. It concluded that France had "heavy and overwhelming responsibilities" by not responding to the drift that led to the slaughter that killed mainly ethnic Tutsis and the moderate Hutus who tried to



In this Friday, April 5, 2019 file photo, family photographs of some of those who died hang on display in an exhibition at the Kigali Genocide Memorial centre in the capital Kigali, Rwanda.

Associated Press

protect them. Groups of extremist Hutus carried out the killings.

The two reports, with their extensive even if different details, could mark a turning point in relations between the two countries.

Rwanda, a small but strategic country of 13 million people, is "ready" for a "new relationship" with France, Rwanda's Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Buriuta told AP.

"Maybe the most important thing in this process is that those two commissions have analyzed the historical facts, have analyzed the archives which were made available to them and have come to a common understanding of that past," he said. "From there we can build this strong relationship."

A top official in Macron's office on Monday welcomed the report as a "decisive step" which showed "the willingness expressed by Rwandan authorities to write a shared history and, above all, to look to a common future."

He also noted "unprecedented political trust" reached between Paris and Kigali as Rwandan officials have shown signs that they agree with the "irreversible rapprochement approach" taken by

France.

Macron is considering traveling to Rwanda in the coming months, said the official, who spoke anonymously in accordance with the French presidency's policies.

The Rwandan report, commissioned in 2017 from the Washington law firm of Levy Firestone Muse, is based on a wide range of documentary sources from governments, non-governmental organizations and academics including diplomatic cables, documentaries, videos, and news articles. The authors also said they interviewed more than 250 witnesses.

In the years before the genocide, "French officials armed, advised, trained, equipped, and protected the Rwandan government, heedless of the Habyarimana regime's commitment to the dehumanization and, ultimately, the destruction and death of Tutsi in Rwanda," the report charges.

French authorities at the time pursued "France's own interests, in particular the reinforcement and expansion of France's power and influence in Africa."

In April and May 1994, at the height of the genocide, French officials "did nothing to stop" the massacres,

says the report.

Operation Turquoise, a French-led military intervention backed by the U.N. which started on June 22, "came too late to save many Tutsi," the report says. Authors say they found "no evidence that French officials or personnel participated directly in the killing of Tutsi during that period." This finding echoes the conclusion of the French report that cleared France of complicity in the massacres, saying that "nothing in the archives" demonstrates a "willingness to join a genocidal operation." The Rwandan report also addressed the attitude of French authorities after the genocide.

Over the past 27 years, "the French government has covered up its role, distorted the truth, and protected" those who committed the genocide, it says.

The report suggests that French authorities made "little efforts" to send to trial those who committed the genocide. Three Rwandan nationals have been convicted of genocide so far in France.

It also strongly criticizes the French government for not making public documents about the genocide. The government of Rwanda notably submitted three

requests for documents in 2019, 2020 and this year that the French government "ignored," according to the report.

Under French law, documents regarding military and foreign policies can remain classified for decades.

But things may be changing, the Rwandan report says, mentioning "hopeful signs."

On April 7, the day of commemoration of the genocide, Macron announced the decision to declassify and make accessible to the public the archives from 1990 to 1994 that belong to the French president and prime minister's offices.

"Recent disclosures of documents in connection with the (French) report ... may signal a move toward transparency," authors of the Rwandan report said.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda praised the report commissioned by Macron as "a good thing," welcoming efforts in Paris to "move forward with a good understanding of what happened."

Félicien Kabuga, a Rwandan long wanted for his alleged role in supplying machetes to the killers, was arrested outside Paris last May.

And in July an appeals court in Paris upheld a decision to end a years-long investigation into the plane crash that killed Habyarimana and set off the genocide.

That probe aggravated Rwanda's government because it targeted several people close to Kagame for their alleged role, charges they denied.

Last week, a Rwandan priest was arrested in France for his alleged role in the genocide, which he denied.

Macron's office said the French government is committed to provide the "necessary means" to allow the "intensification" of legal proceedings against alleged perpetrators of the genocide. Activists estimate more than 100 of them are believed to live on French territory. □

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## Cuba's Communist Party chooses Miguel Díaz-Canel as leader

**HAVANA (AP)** — In many ways, Cuba's new maximum leader is nothing like those who have governed the island for the past six decades.

Miguel Díaz-Canel was never a guerrilla fighter and was for only a few years, like all Cubans of his generation, a soldier. He rose peacefully and diligently through the approved channels. And he isn't named Castro.

On Monday, Cuba's Communist Party congress as expected chose Díaz-Canel to be its leader, adding that crucial post to the title of president he assumed in 2018. In both cases, he replaces his mentor Raul Castro, 89, sealing a political dynasty that had held power since the 1959 revolution.

Díaz-Canel, who turns 61



**In this May 1, 2019 file photo, Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel, left, and former Cuban President Raul Castro wave Cuban flags as they watch the annual May Day parade file past at Revolution Square in Havana, Cuba.**

on Tuesday, is a relative youngster compared to members of the generation

that accompanied Fidel Castro in his battle against the dictatorship of Fulgen-

cio Batista and then stayed on in power for decade after decade while cement-

ing a Soviet-style political system.

Born a year after the revolution in the west-central city of Santa Clara, he reportedly dabbled as a youth in minor unconformities wearing long hair and following The Beatles in a communist nation tightly aligned with the Soviet Union that then frowned upon them as an instrument of cultural imperialism.

He earned an engineering degree and dedicated himself to official politics, rising to a senior post in the Union of Young Communists and then through a series of bureaucratic positions in Cuba's provinces, where he gained a reputation as a pragmatic administrator with an amiable, informal manner in dealing with the public. □

**Associated Press**

## 1 dead, 100,000 displaced as typhoon blows near Philippines

**By JIM GOMEZ**  
**Associated Press**

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — An approaching powerful typhoon has left at least one person dead, another missing and prompted the evacuation of more than 100,000 people as a precaution in the eastern and central Philippines,

although the unusual summer storm is not expected to blow into land, officials said Monday.

Typhoon Surigae was about 500 kilometers (310 miles) east of Infanta town in Quezon province on Monday afternoon with sustained winds of 195 kilometers (121 miles) per hour

and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph). It is forecast to slowly move northwestward and then veer eastward away from the northern Philippines around Thursday.

Vicente Malano, administrator of the government weather agency, said a high pressure area extending from China to Japan was blocking the typhoon from blowing inland.

"We're lucky it's not going to make landfall because if it hits land, it's really going to be super devastating," said Ariel Rojas from the weather agency.

The typhoon's 900-kilometer (560-mile) band of rainclouds and strong winds nevertheless flooded at least 22 villages and caused power outages in four provinces. □

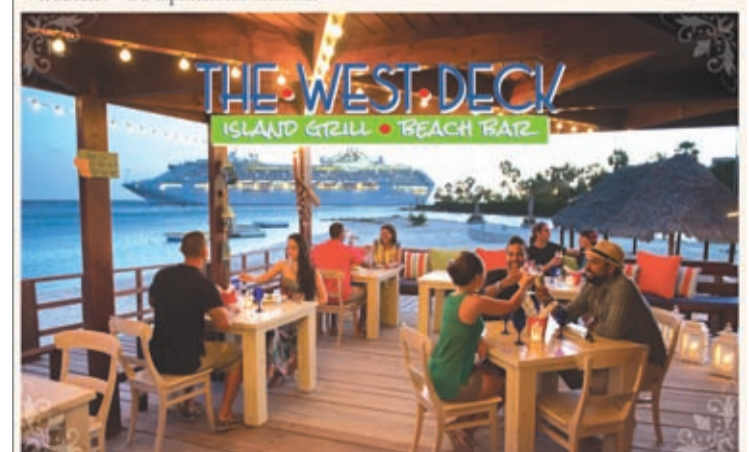


**In this photo provided by the San Policarpo Firestation, firemen and police push up a steel fence as they clear roads during rain caused by Typhoon Surigae in the municipality of San Policarpo, Eastern Samar, eastern Philippines on Sunday April 18, 2021.**

**Associated Press**



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## New & unique venue in Oranjestad, a must for visitors! Patio 15 connects Aruba's culture with Caribbean food & cocktails delight



**ORANJESTAD** — Replica buildings and chain restaurants we can do everywhere and they are all the same, offering the expected. When visiting a place we'd like to see the real thing. Being in Aruba, the pearl of Caribbean, you can feel the energy of a historic house and at the same time indulge in finger-licking food and signature cocktails. There is a new hot spot: Patio 15. Make sure to go, it's easily accessible and it has secured private parking.

### Step inside the patio

Taste. Sip. Play. It is their slogan. It is a great description of what happens but there is so much more. First of all you get the friendliest welcome in Aruba here by an icon: one of the last real gentlemen, dressed from head to toe in elegance. Listen to his story of how he came to Aruba. This 80-plus sweet doorman who had been working for over 40 years at a department store on the island. Everybody knows him, you should too!



### Admire the monument

The yellow color of the sun that is so typical for authentic Aruban houses catches your attention. You are seated in front of an authentic Aruban home which that was built around 1860 and has been transformed in the year 2020 into a unique outdoor restaurant, bar, dancing, and event space: Patio 15. Feel a warm breeze titillating your senses. You are surrounded by



night lights and stars and inspired by the hip ambiance while being introduced to Aruba's history at the same time. The patio refers to the outdoor space in front of the house where the family and friends used to gather. Inside antique trinkets take you back to older times against a backdrop of contemporary design. There is a wall that showcases Lps of Aruba's musical heroes.

### Mindblowing bites

This casual hipster venue offers you the opportunity to taste all kinds of small bites or tapas with a fuse of international favorites and Aruban local dishes. Patio 15 serenades Aruba of yesterday while showing you they are the trendsetters du jour.

What to think of a Keeshi Yena Taco. This is an homage to Aruba's typical cheese/minced meat dish in a taco, Feta Cheese Pizza comes on a watermelon sliced as pizza and with Yerba di Hole on top which is a kind of local basil, the Conch Fritters and the Funchi Fries with delicious Truffle Mayo is a



must. Try the scrumptious Escargots & Musrooms or the Vegan Ceviche, yummy! The Best one: Mini Saco, you got to love this creativity because a 'saco' is a typical local snack where chicken, beef, or ribs and potatoes are fried and served in a bag which is the 'saco'. Patio 15 is still throwing in new offerings to its 37-piece menu so you can try another selection daily. The traditional Spanish tapas will also be there simply because they are to die for. We would say: go ahead, it is a winning game here. And do not forget to take a Key Lime Pie for dessert, it's an everlasting memory. ☐



Patio 15 Aruba is open Tuesday to Sunday from 5 pm – 9 pm and is located downtown at West Straat 15 Oranjestad, next to the main bus station. For more information call +297 588 1515. Browse on their website [patio15aruba.com](http://patio15aruba.com) or Facebook page Patio 15 Aruba. See you there!

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Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.**Medlab Aruba 'fit-2-fly':  
Covid-19 testing on the island**

**NOORD** — While on vacation, the last thing you need to worry about is what to do or where to go for your COVID-19 testing. Many countries, including the U.S. require for all passengers heading back home to present with a negative test result for PCR or Antigen 72 hours prior to departure.

MEDLAB Aruba is an accredited ISO 15189:2012 OGA-LE 23-08 laboratory with over 30 years of experience on the island. The laboratory complies with the Department of Public Health of Aruba, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements for COVID -19 testing. MEDLAB Aruba has been assigned as one of the private laboratories authorized to perform "Fit-2-Fly" testing for departing passengers.

**Hassle free scheduling – QR-code**

The laboratory has invested on the only fully integrated digital booking platform on the island that allows guests to pre-register for the testing prior to coming to Aruba and have all their information incorporated upon entry to any of the available testing centers. Guests will receive a confirmation email with QR-code



that will be requested upon day of testing to facilitate a faster turn-around time for your results. Testing options

Offering three method of testing gives you, our island visitors, the possibility to choose which service is at your convenience. Recommended time to complete test prior to departure is 48 (72) hours. We also request for you to bring your passport to the appointment.

Testing Option 1: Walk-In service at our location in Noord Medical Center (NMC), Noord 63 or at Su-

perfood COVID Testing Center. You may also book online at [WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM](http://WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM) and choose location.

Testing Option 2: On-site at participating hotels. Only guests staying on these properties will be allowed to conduct the test. Appointment is also made online at [WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM](http://WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM).

The participating hotels with testing facilities are Aruba Marriott Resort (Stellaris, Ocean and Surf Club), Holiday Inn, Playa Linda Beach Resort, RIU Antillas, RIU Palace, Eagle

Resort, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Manchebo Beach Resort, Casa del Mar & Aruba Beach Club, Caribbean Palm Village.

Testing Option 3: Airbnb/ Other hotel location. We come to you for the test together with our vehicular Mobile Health Test Unit. We require a minimum of six people for this service. Request/ Book appointment through WhatsApp number +297 5975548.

**Price**

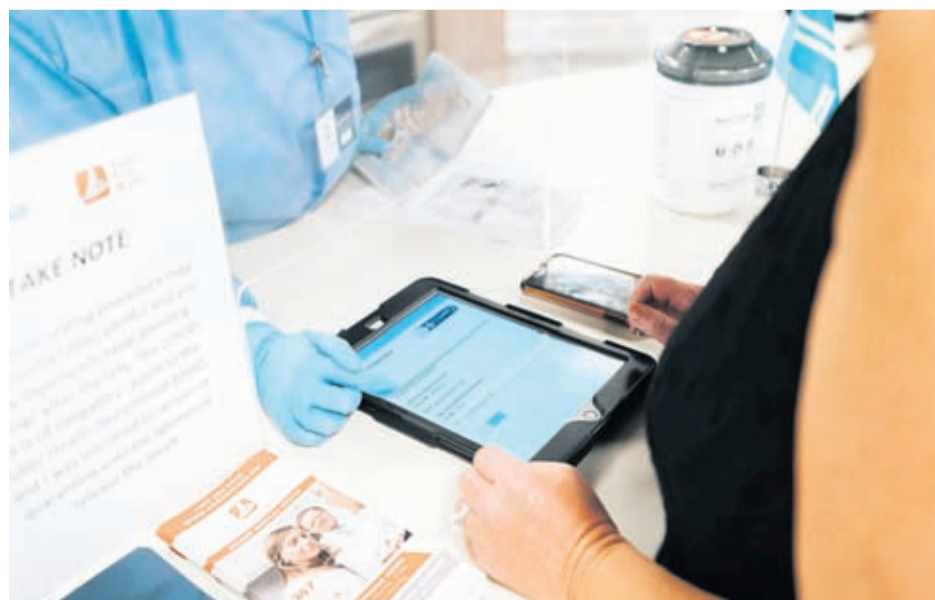
Offering a great rate for the testing. The Antigen test is at \$50 and the PCR at \$100. Payment method is card (preferred), cash (hygiene measures).

The COVID Test is not covered by the Aruba Visitor's Insurance, but you are able to seek reimbursement once back home.

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For more information visit [www.covidaruba.com](http://www.covidaruba.com), call us at +297 5975548 or email us at [covid@lab.aw](mailto:covid@lab.aw). □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Identity awareness

## Episode CI - 101

**Illegal constructions, unsupervised activities as well as some economic developments are irresponsibly exploiting all that has to do with and related to the incursion of the top as well as the subsoil and its contents. Bio- Surface destruction of an area is one of the worst threats to people's cultural heritage patrimonies and existence itself.**

Development pressure or the need to rescue remains prior to their destruction has increased drastically in recent years. Many more private homes projects, offices, shopping centers and parking lots were built on this tiny island. Alongside miles of paved roads and sidewalks, new neighborhoods, schools and social centers all at the cost of habitat lost and ecological decimation of endangered endemic flora and fauna species, archaeological sites, all once a pristine natural landscape.

Together we must encourage participation by choosing for nature, culture and knowledge. Protect our historical buildings and give value to what must be considered unique heritage resources whether we are considering our next step in tourism of autochthon historical and cultural values or not, since these makes up the national intangible heritage and any loss would become one that is forever.

It is imperative to consider motivating the population level explaining the benefits of value and commitment relating to the importance of identity and origins found in recollected salvage.

This causes archaeology in historically significant areas to be under threat. Because salvage archaeology is threatened, it is only rarely possible to be selective about what is examined, and time constraints often mean that many of the more refined techniques of data recovery cannot be deployed. Others are the vandalizing of such jewels as prehistoric cave, rock paintings, historical graves found in areas where there were human activities, settlement remains. Preserving through direct evidence recollection of objects and artifact that could be questions linked to available data sources of customs and challenges. Prehistoric artifacts are the only evidence available to study our past, since writing was not so important in their traditions and customs.

Our practice doesn't differ to that of archaeologists and historians, "to leave things in their place to the guard of any alteration", thus keeping archaeological details in their original place because in the near future and with the technological advance they could carry out more sophisticated studies and thus obtain more accurate data on how our ancestors lived. Based on the concept "to leave things in their place..." Etnia Nativa pride itself on providing a welcome that emanates from Aruba's ethnic roots and the now extinct agro-pottery culture. We also advocates for nature preservation, creativity and self-consciousness

We working hand in hand with Aruba's Archaeological Department as well as whit together with other science oriented awareness organizations to safeguard or as last resort practice a savage operation in order to safe what there is to be picked up.

At the beginning of the last century until the 1970s you could still find enormous Kwihi trees Prosopis juliflora all around Oranjestad, Aruba's capital city and metate or grinding stones of local lithic material could be found in almost all native homes in Aruba, a legacy of an Agro-potters civilization



and a cultural heritage. Almost all rocks surrounded the metate on this picture at the entrance of Etnia Nativa came from salvage where visitors participants interact with archaeological and historical artifacts, contemporary native art and crafts explained by an expert native host. □

To get to know a little more regarding Aruba's and its cultural origins we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session.

A mind opening revelation and entertaining island experience.

Mail us at [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com), our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.

# How the pandemic has shaken up retirement

By **LIZ WESTON** of NerdWallet

Pandemic-related job losses forced many older Americans out of the workplace in the past year, perhaps permanently. But the COVID-19 crisis also seems to have delayed some retirements.

Remote work eliminated commutes and often allowed more flexible schedules with fewer interruptions. At the same time, the pandemic restricted many traditional retirement activities, including travel and visits with family. While some employed older workers look forward to retiring when restrictions ease, others say teleworking has made staying on the job more tenable.

Tax accountant Larry B. Harris of Asheville, North Carolina, found a lot to like about working from home, including more flexibility and less time in his car.

## UNEVEN RECOVERY, UNEVEN RETIREMENT IMPACT

Economists talk about a K-shaped recovery, where a portion of the nation's industries and population bounce back quickly from recession while others stagnate or continue to sink. Something similar



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

may be happening with baby boomer retirements, as better-off workers gain more options while those with fewer choices lose ground.

The pace of retirements among baby boomers,

those born from 1946 to 1964, accelerated during the pandemic, a Pew Research Center analysis of monthly labor force data found. The number of boomers who reported that they were out of the la-

bor force due to retirement grew 3.2 million in the third quarter of 2020 compared with the previous year. Before the pandemic, the number of retired boomers had been growing an average of 2 million each year since 2011, when the first boomer turned 65.

Some people retired to avoid COVID-19 exposure, while others may have been nudged to "seize the day" by the pandemic's reminder of our mortality. But massive job losses may have forced many into early retirement, economists and financial planners say. One of certified financial planner Neal Van Zutphen's clients, a woman in her late 50s, lost a well-paying job in the hospitality industry. Most people who lose a full-time job in their 50s never recover financially, according to research by nonprofit newsroom ProPublica and the Urban Institute, a nonprofit research organization.

"It's difficult to find a new position of similar caliber," says Van Zutphen of Tempe, Arizona. "She hopes to work part time at something."

## PANDEMIC RECESSION HIT OLDER WORKERS HARDER

Older workers lost jobs faster and returned to work slower last year than mid-career workers, according to a study by The New School's Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis that tracked unemployment from April through September last year.

The study found that for the first time since 1973, workers 55 and older faced persistently higher unemployment rates than workers ages 35 to 54. Certain older workers women, Black people and those without college degrees were even more likely to lose their jobs. And these workers tend to have less saved, so they are also more exposed to retirement risks such as downward mobility and poverty, the study said.

At the same time that the pandemic was pushing millions out of the workforce, lockdown orders gave millions of others a crash course in working from home. About 75% of federal government employees, for example, were working remotely in September, according to a survey conducted by the Government Business Council, a research group. □

# ABN AMRO pays multimillion fine in money laundering probe

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands**

(AP) — ABN AMRO has agreed to pay 480 million euros (\$574 million) as part of a settlement with prosecutors who accused the

Dutch state-owned bank of "serious shortcomings" in tackling money laundering, prosecutors and the bank said Monday.

The settlement was made up of a 300 million-euro fine and 180 million euros

paid to cover "unlawfully obtained gains," prosecutors said.

The fine "reflects that as a result of the serious shortcomings, certain clients that engaged in ... criminal activities were able to abuse bank accounts and other services of ABN AMRO for a longer period of time," the Dutch Public Prosecution Service said in a statement.

ABN is not the first major Dutch bank to agree a multimillion euro settlement over lax adherence with a law aimed at clamping down on money laundering and terrorism financing.

In 2018, ING paid 775 million euros (\$897 million) to settle a huge money laun-

dering case.

Prosecutors said Monday that the ABN AMRO's breaches are attributed to the bank, but added that their investigation also identified three former members of its board who "presumably are effectively responsible" for the violations. It did not identify the three and said investigations are continuing into whether there is sufficient evidence to prosecute them.

However, in Denmark Danske Bank said its CEO Chris Vogelzang had resigned after being named as one of the suspects. Gerrit Zalm, a former Dutch finance minister and ex-ABN AMRO board member, also quit Danske Bank's board.

Vogelzang said he was surprised by the Dutch probe. "I left ABN AMRO more than four years ago and am comfortable with the fact that I managed my management responsibilities with integrity and dedication," he said.

"My status as a suspect does not imply that I will be charged."

ABN AMRO said in a statement that it "deeply regrets the situation and recognizes the seriousness of the matter, and that it has fallen short in the fulfillment of its role as gatekeeper aimed at combatting money laundering."

CEO Robert Swaak added: "This is unacceptable and we take full responsibility for this." □



The ABN AMRO head office is seen in the capital's business district, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday, March 2, 2020.

Associated Press

# NASA's Mars helicopter takes flight, 1st for another planet

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)**

— NASA's experimental helicopter Ingenuity rose into the thin air above the dusty red surface of Mars on Monday, achieving the first powered flight by an aircraft on another planet. The triumph was hailed as a Wright brothers moment. The mini 4-pound (1.8-kilogram) copter even carried a bit of wing fabric from the Wright Flyer that made similar history at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903. It was a brief hop just 39 seconds and 10 feet (3 meters) but accomplished all the major milestones.

"We've been talking so long about our Wright brothers moment, and here it is," said project manager MiMi Aung, offering a virtual hug to her socially distanced colleagues in the control room as well as those at home because of the coronavirus pandemic. Flight controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California declared success after receiving the data and images via the Perseverance rover. Ingenuity hitched a ride to Mars on Perseverance, clinging to the rover's belly when it touched down in an ancient river delta in February. The \$85 million helicopter demo was considered high risk, yet high reward. Scientists cheered the news from around the world, even from space, and the



In this image from NASA, NASA's experimental Mars helicopter Ingenuity hovers above the surface of Mars Monday, April 19, 2021.

Associated Press

White House offered its congratulations.

"A whole new way to explore the alien terrain in our solar system is now at our disposal," Nottingham Trent University astronomer Daniel Brown said from England.

This first test flight with more to come by Ingenuity holds great promise, Brown noted. Future helicopters could serve as otherworldly scouts for rovers, and eventually astronauts, in difficult, dangerous places.

Ground controllers had to wait more than three excruciating hours before learning whether the pre-programmed flight had

succeeded 178 million miles (287 million kilometers) away. The first attempt had been delayed a week because of a software error.

When the news finally came, the operations center filled with applause, cheers and laughter. More followed when the first black and white photo from Ingenuity appeared, showing the helicopter's shadow as it hovered above the surface of Mars.

"The shadow of greatness, #MarsHelicopter first flight on another world complete!" NASA astronaut Victor Glover tweeted from the International Space

Station. The helicopter hovered for 30 seconds at its intended altitude of 10 feet (3 meters), and spent 39 seconds airborne, more than three times longer than the first successful flight of the Wright Flyer, which lasted a mere 12 seconds on Dec. 17, 1903.

To accomplish all this, the helicopter's twin, counter-rotating rotor blades needed to spin at 2,500 revolutions per minute five times faster than on Earth. With an atmosphere just 1% the thickness of Earth's, engineers had to build a helicopter light enough with blades spinning fast enough to generate this

otherworldly lift.

More than six years in the making, Ingenuity is just 19 inches (49 centimeters) tall, a spindly four-legged chopper. Its fuselage, containing all the batteries, heaters and sensors, is the size of a tissue box. The carbon-fiber, foam-filled rotors are the biggest pieces: Each pair stretches 4 feet (1.2 meters) tip to tip.

Ingenuity also had to be sturdy enough to withstand the Martian wind, and is topped with a solar panel for recharging the batteries, crucial for surviving the minus-130 degree Fahrenheit (minus-90 degree-Celsius) Martian nights.

NASA chose a flat, relatively rock-free patch for Ingenuity's airfield. Following Monday's success, NASA named the Martian airfield for the Wright brothers.

"While these two iconic moments in aviation history may be separated by time and ... million miles of space, they now will forever be linked," NASA's science missions chief Thomas Zurbuchen announced.

The little chopper with a giant job attracted attention from the moment it launched with Perseverance last July.

Even Arnold Schwarzenegger joined in the fun, rooting for Ingenuity over the weekend. "Get to the chopper!" he shouted in a tweeted video, a line from his 1987 sci-fi film "Predator." □

## NASA spacecraft leaves mess after grabbing asteroid samples

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)** — A NASA spacecraft left a mess at an asteroid when it grabbed a load of rubble last year for return to Earth, new pictures revealed Thursday. The Osiris-Rex spacecraft made one final flyby of asteroid Bennu on April 7 to take photos of the disturbance left by October's sample collection.

A depression is visible where Osiris-Rex penetrated the asteroid's surface. Boulders were hurled by the pressurized nitrogen gas that was fired at the ground to churn up material for vacuuming, and by the spacecraft's get-away thruster. One 1-ton boulder was flung an estimated 40 feet (12 meters).

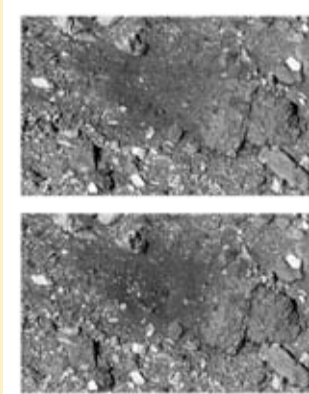
The Osiris-Rex team meticulously plotted the final flyover

to ensure the best shots. The pictures were taken around noontime to avoid shadows and better see the changes on Bennu's rocky surface.

"These observations were not in the original mission plan, so we were excited to go back and document what we did," the University of Arizona's Dathon Golish said in a statement.

Osiris-Rex will depart Bennu's vicinity next month and head back toward Earth with its precious 2-pound (1-kilogram) sample load. It's due to arrive in 2023.

The solar-orbiting, carbon-rich asteroid is 182 million miles (293 million kilometers) from Earth. By studying pieces of it, scientists hope to better understand how our solar system's planets formed and how people should react if an asteroid endangers Earth. □



This combination of 2019 and 2021 images made available by NASA shows how the local surface of Bennu changed after the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft took a sample of the asteroid on Oct. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

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## Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1				9		6	
5				8	1			4
	2						7	
1	5		6		7			
	3						1	
			5		3		2	9
	7						4	
6			3	9				8
	9		1				3	

Difficulty Level ★★

4/20

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# Rejected Broadway posters on sale to help theater community

**By MARK KENNEDY**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Letting the world see your failures is usually something most people try to avoid. Not for theatrical poster designer Frank Verlizzo — he hopes you'll put his on your wall. Verlizzo is selling prints of his rejected posters for such shows as "Cabaret," "Equus" and "Matilda" with all proceeds going to the aid organization Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. "It's exciting for me because it's work that I particularly loved that I didn't think anyone was ever going to see," says the artist. "So it's kind of wonderful that they're now out in the world, for better or for worse."

The 16 posters included in the series — each goes for \$399 with a frame — were either rejected, never pitched or part of a group of submissions that Verlizzo made that allowed only one winner.

One highlight is an alternative poster for "The Lion King." Disney, of course, went for Verlizzo's stark animal mane stamp that has become iconic. But now people can mount an unpublished design of his which uses paw prints from



This combination of photos shows rejected theatrical poster art from various productions, designed by Frank Verlizzo and available for purchase. All proceeds go to the aid organization Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Associated Press

King Mufasa and newborn Simba to illustrate both the past and the future. "There are a million reasons why a poster gets rejected for a show," he explains. "It's a room full of people. It's like one big beauty contest. Everybody has their favorites."

The offerings include an intriguing one for "Matilda" that uses letters of the alphabet to make up a graphic portrait of the imaginative heroine. Verlizzo created it for the Broadway run of the musical but producers decided to keep the previous West End campaign.

Verlizzo, who designs under the moniker "Fraver" — a combination of his two

names — says opening his vault and helping fellow artists during the pandemic was a "no-brainer."

"The devastation in the theater industry was unbelievable. So many of my friends were unemployed instantly," he says. "I hope it raises a lot of money."

The project is in partnership with Gelato, the global production platform that enables artists to sell their designs to customers anywhere in the world using a network of local producers, which means carbon emissions are minimized.

Julie Ryland, who led the project for Gelato, said each poster takes you behind the creative process and in some ways celebrates

the people who work on Broadway who often aren't seen.

"Each one has a story. And and I think we crave stories during this time. We crave creativity," she said. "I don't think it's a coincidence that wall art has become so popular. Customers are just craving art and things to put up on their walls and bring into their homes now that we can't access it in other ways."

Posters play a key role in a show's life. Until word of mouth takes over, ad campaigns have to entice patrons to be willing to pay high ticket prices for something they may know little about.

"It's definitely the first thing

anybody sees about any show. And the thing I like most about it is it's the thing that stays behind when the show's no longer around," Verlizzo says.

The latest set — on top of a collection of his work, "Fraver By Design: 5 Decades of Theatre Poster Art from Broadway, Off-Broadway and Beyond," show Verlizzo's range, which includes everything from woodcuts to elaborate typography to stylized illustration.

"This was a criticism I always came up against at school — 'You don't have a style. You don't have your own style,'" he says. "It's like, 'Well, I like all sorts of things. I like wood cuts. I like illustration. I like graphic design.' I don't see why I have to tie myself down to any one particular look or style."

To make his posters, Verlizzo starts with a script and dreams up an image that can be shrunk down to the size of a postage stamp newspaper ad or blown up to be on a billboard.

"I read it quickly first and try to get visual impressions, which is really what I'm reading it for," he says. "Sometimes there's a theme that I see evolving that I think would be that I could express graphically."

He works so far ahead that often the script isn't finished yet and there have been no casting decisions yet. He tries to come up with something to "catch your eye or intrigue a possible audience member."

In addition to art for "The Lion King," Verlizzo has made his mark on Broadway with hundreds of posters for such shows as "Sweeney Todd" and "Sunday in the Park with George."

## Ziggy Marley happy to be part of Earth Day concert



Ziggy Marley performs at "The World's Biggest Sleep Out" in Pasadena, Calif., on Dec. 7, 2019.

Associated Press

**By MARK KENNEDY**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — The pandemic can't stop Ziggy Marley from celebrating the Earth. The son of reggae icon Bob Marley and Rita Marley will be one of the highlights of Nat Geo's Earth Day Eve 2021 streaming concert on Wednesday. "Any time they call me, I'm there for this. Any time they want me," he

said from Los Angeles. "Everything is being done a bit different but we're still doing it, which is the main point." Marley will be joined at the concert by Willie Nelson, Yo-Yo Ma, Angélique Kidjo, AURORA, José González, Maggie Rogers, Rostam and Valerie June. A world premiere new music video will also air from My Morning Jacket.

"We're making art to make a change and challenge the status quo," Marley said. "We need more art like that in this time. We need more music like that. We need more artists like that. So I am just happy that we are using art in that way."

Marley will pull out an acoustic guitar and sing a song appropriate for the event: "I Don't Wanna Live On Mars" from his 2014 album "Fly Rasta." The opening line is: "I don't want to live on Mars/I don't want to drive space cars."

"Whatever happens to this planet is

going to happen to us all," he said. "It's not going to happen just to the rich or just to the poor. It's going to happen to us all — the good and the bad."

Jessica Nabongo is hosting the Earth Day event with Brian Skerry, Dr. Jane Goodall, Lillygol Sedaghat, Dr. Lucy Hawkes and Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant making special appearances.

The special will be seen Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. ET/5:30 p.m. PT on National Geographic's YouTube channel and website. Following that show, the action will move to TikTok for an afterparty with Jayda G., who'll be spinning records accompanied by visuals from the Disney+ series "Earth Moods."

Earth Day — this year on Thursday — has for decades been used to rally support for action on climate change. Carbon dioxide levels have increased 26% since the first Earth Day. □

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7	8	4	5	1	3	6	2	9
3	7	2	8	6	5	9	4	1
6	4	1	3	9	2	7	5	8
8	9	5	1	7	4	2	3	6

# Cink-cess! 47-year-old Cink wins 3rd RBC Heritage title

By PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.

(AP) — The golf was exceptional for Stewart Cink. What made his third RBC Heritage title truly special was that his family was there to experience his age-defying success.

Cink hugged son Reagan, his caddie, after he closed out his four-shot victory at Harbour Town with a stress-free par on the lighthouse-framed 18th hole. Wife Lisa, their other son, Connor, and his fiancée, Jess Baker, were in the gallery cheering Cink's second win this season.

"To have a posse like that waiting at the end to celebrate with," Cink said, "it's just an experience you don't get to have in your life that often."

Maybe the Cink family has more such joyous moments ahead with Stewart's resurgence on the PGA Tour.

He shot a steady, stress-free 70 to cap off a dominant, record-breaking week at an age — 47 — when many players are looking ahead to the PGA Tour Championships.

Instead, it was Cink finishing four better than Emiliano Grillo and Harold Varner III. Grillo shot a 68 while Varner, who had the highest finish of his career, fired a 66. The 30-year-old Varner took found plenty of encouragement in the man who beat him.

"He's old and he's kicking everyone's (butt)," Varner



Stewart Cink kisses the championship trophy after winning the final round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Associated Press

said. "Yeah, it inspires me. It inspires me to know that I can play golf for a long time."

The Cinks had their arms around each other to celebrate.

"I don't even know if I have the words," Stewart Cink said.

He won for the second time this season — only he and Bryson DeChambeau have done that. He broke an 11-year winless drought in the season's first tournament, the Safeway Open back in September.

That one seemed to come out of nowhere. But Cink backed it up with four more top-20 finishes, including a tie for 12th last week at the Masters.

He won \$1.278 million, nearly as much as the \$1.404 million for his two previous victories at Harbour Town combined.

The second win comes with a major perk — Cink earned an exemption into the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in June. It will be the first U.S. Open since 2017 for the former British Open champion.

Cink became the fourth player to win twice in the same PGA Tour season after turning 47. Sam Snead, Julius Boros and Kenny Perry, who accomplished it twice, are the others.

Cink put on show for the ages by shooting 16-under 126 in the first two rounds — shattering the lowest 36-

hole score at Harbour Town of 13-under 129 shared by Jack Nicklaus and Phil Mickelson. Cink added a 69 on Saturday to reach 18 under, two better than Justin Leonard's 54-hole score in 2002.

Cink carried a five-shot lead into the final round and dared all chasers to come get him. Nobody made a run at Cink, who led by at least three shots throughout.

PGA Championship winner Collin Morikawa, paired with Cink, opened with a birdie. But bogeys on the second and fourth holes took Morikawa out of the mix.

Maverick McNealy had five birdies on the front nine

to climb to 14-under, four back of Cink, in the middle of the round. Consecutive bogeys on the 11th and 12th ended McNealy's surge.

Grillo and Varner came the closest at 15-under and were just three back until Cink's final birdie at the par-3 17th, which made it all but certain he would add another plaid winner's jacket to the ones he won in 2000 and 2004.

Cink had made 17 birdies and two eagles the first three rounds. He had only two birdies Sunday, but that was more than enough to claim his eighth career victory.

Cink anticipated a dogfight. Instead, he said he fought the course, rather than the field, for most of the day. After his strong play at Augusta National, he was full of confidence.

"I really felt I had the kind of stuff that was going to be very hard to beat," he said. He was downright impossible to chase down after his blazing hot start on Thursday and Friday.

"What's so amazing is this kind of rebirth that Stewart is experiencing at such an older age," Lisa Cink said. "I'm just in awe of how well he's playing at this time in his career."

McNealy (67), Corey Conners (68) and Matt Fitzpatrick (68) tied for fourth at 13-under. Morikawa slipped to seventh after a 72, tied with Chris Kirk (67) at 12-under. □

## Tour plans to make non-vaccinated golfers pay for COVID test

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

The PGA Tour is telling its players they will not have to be tested for the coronavirus if they are vaccinated, and those who aren't will have to pay for their own tests starting this summer.

In a memo sent to players Monday, the tour strongly encouraged them to get vaccinated. It stopped short of saying it would require players to be vaccinated to compete in tournaments.

Players would be deemed inoculated 14 days after the full course

of the vaccine. They would no longer be subject to testing for the coronavirus and, in accordance with CDC guidelines, would be able to gather in small groups without face coverings. Social distancing and face coverings still would be required at tournaments. Anyone who has been vaccinated and comes in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus would need to quarantine only if they have symptoms.

Players have been subjected to testing since golf's return last June,

which was paid for by the tour. The testing operation will stop at the end of June. The tour did not specify a date. That would be after the Travelers Championship in Connecticut or the Rocket Mortgage Classic in Detroit.

After that, the tour said players or staff wanting to take part in a tournament would be required to provide a negative PCR test within 72 hours of arriving.

The tour said it would reimburse the cost of testing for those who can't get vaccinated because of a medical condition.

Three players, including former U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland, tested positive at the Honda Classic last month. That was the most recent positive test in the last four PGA Tour events through last week at the RBC Heritage.

In the memo, the tour highlighted Pfizer and Moderna as "two highly effective FDA-approved vaccines," though it later said anyone already vaccinated with Johnson & Johnson or AstraZeneca would be exempt from routine testing. The tour said it still may conduct periodic testing after June. □

# Alex Smith retires after comeback from gruesome leg injury

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Sports Writer

Alex Smith retired Monday after making an improbable comeback from a gruesome broken leg, saying he's ready to leave the NFL but believing he's still able to play quarterback. Smith made the announcement on Instagram a few weeks shy of his 37th birthday, hoping to enjoy more time with his family.

"I want to say thank you for believing in me, and thank you for helping me believe in myself — and in the impossible," Smith said. "Because even though I've got plenty of snaps left in me, after 16 years of giving this game everything I've got, I can't wait to see what else is possible."

Smith earned AP Comeback Player of the Year honors for getting back on the field last season, two years removed from an injury that required 17 operations. After breaking his right tibia and fibula in a game Nov. 18, 2018, against Houston, he said he wondered if he'd be able to take walks with his wife or play with his kids in the



Washington Football Team quarterback Alex Smith (11) is shown in action against the Philadelphia Eagles during an NFL football game in Philadelphia, in this Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

yard — let alone play in the NFL again.

He was hospitalized for almost a month and survived a life-threatening infection in addition to the operations. Smith spent the next year and a half rehabbing and was back at practice when Washington assembled for training camp last summer.

Smith's first game action since the injury came Oct. 11 when Kyle Allen was injured, and he made his first start at Detroit on Nov. 15. He went 5-1 as the starter, including a victory at Philadelphia in Week 17 on a strained right calf that clinched the NFC East title for Washington.

"He accomplished the

greatest comeback in professional sports history and was a huge part of our team's success this past season," owners Dan and Tanya Snyder said in a statement. "We witnessed every step of Alex's comeback, and he personifies perseverance, strength and the will to never give up."

The injury prevented Smith from playing against Tampa Bay in the wild-card round the next week, which Taylor Heinicke started and impressed enough to earn another contract.

Smith told GQ earlier this year that the organization didn't expect him to play again. Coach Ron Rivera agreed with those comments, noting he was worried about Smith's health.

"The biggest thing he and I talked about, really, was that there was really no roadmap to get us to where we were," Rivera said last month. "He worked his butt off to put himself in a position to come back and play. ... It was always in the back of my head: 'What if he gets hurt again? What if he hurts that leg, that specific leg?' I don't want to be the guy that put him back on the field to let him get hurt again."

Washington released Smith in March and signed veteran quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick. Smith initially expressed his intent to keep playing but went unsigned more than a month into free agency. □



In this photo provided by Walt Disney World, NFL star Tom Brady visits Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge inside Disney's Hollywood Studios at Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Monday, April 5, 2021.

Associated Press

## Brady expects to be ready for minicamp after knee surgery

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — Tom Brady is recovering from offseason knee surgery and expects to be ready for June minicamp with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Speaking at a fundraiser for Bucs coach Bruce Arians' foundation, the 43-year-old quarterback joked that he didn't know "if I can go this week." He then added he is aiming to be back on the field relatively soon for the Super Bowl champions.

"I feel pretty good and I push myself pretty hard. ... We we will see how things play out," he said. "It is a long time between now and the beginning of the season. Just be smart about all these different things we have to do and fulfill. We all take a lot of pride in being ready to go and I am sure

we will be."

ESPN first reported Brady's comments at Sunday night's event.

"It's good progress," Brady said. "It's rehab. None of that is fun, but looking forward to getting back to real training and stuff, which is hopefully here pretty soon. "I'm cool with it. It's just part of what you deal with. Things come up. You deal with them the best way you can, with the best opportunity to improve. I'm definitely feeling a lot better than I did six or seven weeks ago." Bucs players, along with those from more than half the league's teams, have said they will not attend voluntary offseason workouts, which could begin Monday. Minicamps are mandatory for players fit to

participate.

Brady signed with Tampa Bay in free agency in March 2020 after 20 seasons with the New England Patriots.

When offseason conditioning programs were put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic last spring, Brady and several new teammates gathered for informal workouts in preparation for his first training camp with the Bucs.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion is looking forward to getting back to work as soon as possible. Arians has said the quarterback's recovery is progressing well and there's a chance Brady could be ready to participate in minicamp if the Bucs have one. □